

Press Release

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Federal Funds Available for Hurricane Sandy Relief

Maryland Historical Trust to Administer Grants to Repair Storm-Damaged Properties

CROWNVILLE, MD –In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) announces a <u>competitive process</u> to award assistance to storm-affected properties, districts or jurisdictions in Maryland.

The funds come from the National Park Service, which awarded more than \$7.6 million to eight East Coast states to help stabilize or repair historic properties damaged by Hurricane Sandy. The Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Assistance Grant Program for historic properties funds grants between \$10,000 and \$150,000. Eligible applicants include state government agencies, local jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, business organizations and individuals. Applications are due May 2, 2014; no matching funds are required.

In October 2012, Hurricane Sandy brought high winds, heavy rain, snow and flooding to Maryland.

The Maryland Emergency Management Agency estimates that 1,068 houses were damaged across Maryland, 927 of them in Somerset County and 593 in Crisfield. The old waterfront city, once the center of the state's oyster industry, has a large historic district dating back to 1870, with some 260 historic buildings. In western Maryland, Garrett County lost power for six days, and heavy winds damaged homes and businesses.

Grants will be offered for rehabilitation, restoration, preservation or protection of structures that were affected by Hurricane Sandy. Properties must be listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Capital projects require the conveyance of a preservation easement to MHT.

Funds also will go toward documentation, studies, surveys, archeology, or planning activities, including projects that assist with disaster preparedness in areas affected by Hurricane Sandy.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate that their properties were damaged in or affected by Hurricane Sandy. Grant projects must be completed by September 30, 2015.

Application for funding must be made to the Maryland Historical Trust; forms and guidelines are available at the <u>Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Grants website</u>.

Learn more about Hurricane Sandy disaster relief grants at a March 17 workshop in Crownsville. Additional workshops may be scheduled.

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Martin O'Malley, Governor Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor Richard Eberhart Hall, AICP, Secretary Amanda Stakem Conn, Esq., Deputy Secretary